



Privacy and Smartphones

Privatics team (Vincent Roca)

Nice University – Sophia Antipolis

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**Inria Grenoble Rhône-Alpes
Privatics team**



- understanding and formalizing privacy
- building privacy preserving systems

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contact : vincent.roca@inria.fr

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Context: The Mobilitics Inria-CNIL project



● Jan.-2012 – Dec. 2014

● focuses on Android et iOS

○ because they dominate

● analyze personal information leaks in **Apps** and **OS services**

○ compare Android / iOS

○ identify practices et tendencies

○ carry out in-lab and in-vivo studies



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Outline

1. introduction
 - two examples
 - “personal information” and the French/EU law
2. smartphones and personal information eco-system
 - why are we here?
 - let's come back to smartphones
 - who does what, who earns what?
 - where is the problem?
3. the manufacturer approaches for privacy parameter control
 - multiple limits
 - three quick examples
4. what we learned with the Mobilitics project
 - a rush towards stable identifiers... for a permanent user tracking that resists to resets
 - a GPS in your pocket... for the others
5. conclusions

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Introduction

- Two examples to start with...

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Example 1 : geolocation data of a telecom operator (2009)

- Malte Spitz (German Green Party) asked his telecom operator to access his data
 - Enriched with publicly available data (e.g., twitter)
 - A dedicated application has been designed to navigate in the history
 - <http://www.zeit.de/datenschutz/malte-spitz-data-retention/>

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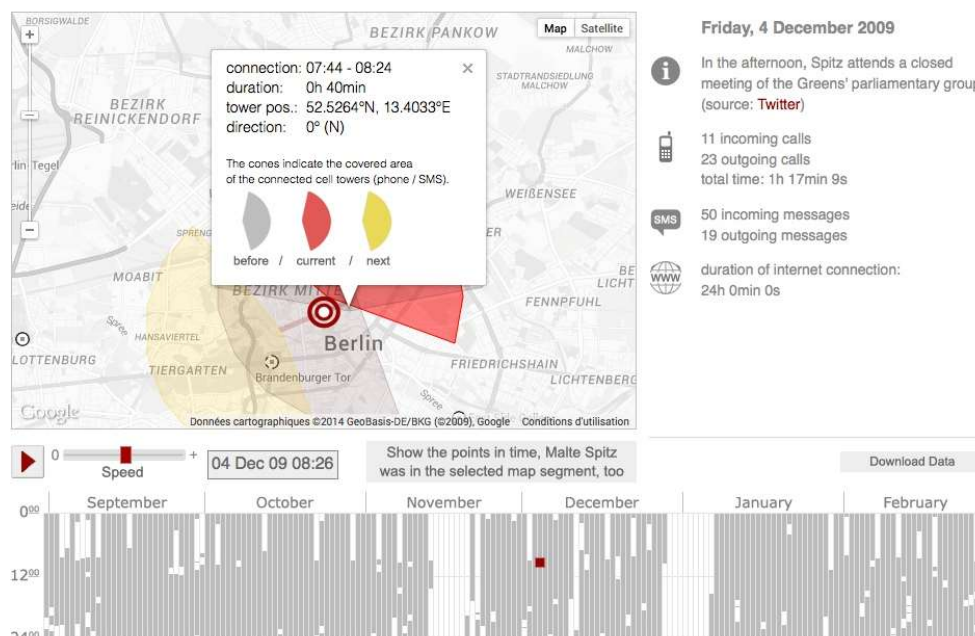
Example 1... (cont')

Tell-all telephone

deutsch | english

Green party politician Malte Spitz sued to have German telecoms giant Deutsche Telekom hand over six months of his phone data that he then made available to ZEIT ONLINE. We combined this geolocation data with information relating to his life as a politician, such as Twitter feeds, blog entries and websites, all of which is all freely available on the internet.

By pushing the play button, you will set off on a trip through Malte Spitz's life. The speed controller allows you to adjust how fast you travel, the pause button will let you stop at interesting points. In addition, a calendar at the bottom shows when he was in a particular location and can be used to jump to a specific time period. Each column corresponds to one day.



Data Protection: Betrayed by our own data

Implementation: OpenDataCity © ZEIT ONLINE

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Example 1... (cont')

- okay, but a legal framework exists that protects the citizens 😊
 - the telecom operator has legal obligations
 - data exists but is only available under specific conditions, after an official request of the authorities

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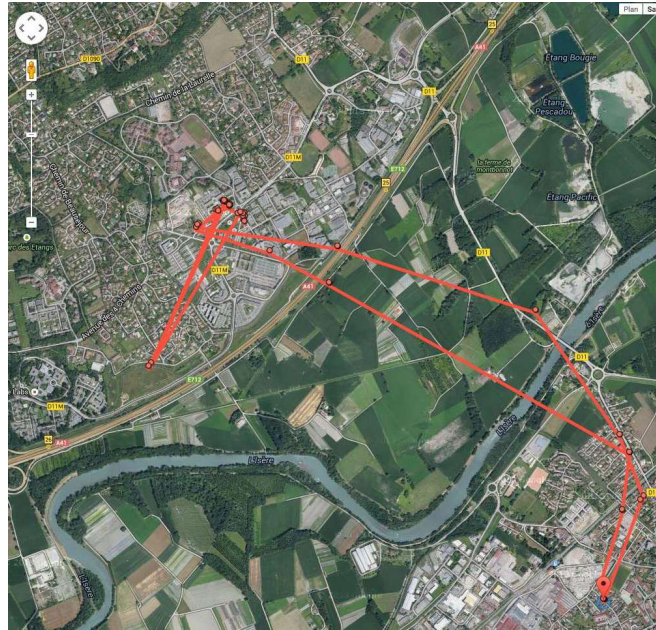
Example 2 : geolocation made in Google

- geolocation collected by my Android smartphone for Google services
 - available
 - NB: login with the gmail account used for the smartphone
<https://maps.google.com/locationhistory/>
 - it's worth having a look at it!

NB: Google recently changed this page to hide details!
Only a summary is provided. Far less frightening

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It is reasonable?



- Google knows where I work, where I live, what I'm doing during the day, how I move...
 - you too now ;-)

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It is reasonable... (cont.)

- ... with an incredible accuracy
 - here is the full list of geolocation points in Google database
 - a record every 5min during the whole night
 - ... and every minute during the day if I'm moving!

mai 2014						
<	lun.	mar.	mer.	jeu.	ven.	sam.
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Afficher : 1 jour

26 mai 2014

Masquer la date et l'heure

00:00 - 01:00
00:03 00:07 00:12 00:17 00:22 00:26
00:31 00:36 00:41 00:45 00:50 00:55

01:00 - 02:00
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01:28 01:33 01:38 01:42 01:47 01:52
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02:00 - 03:00
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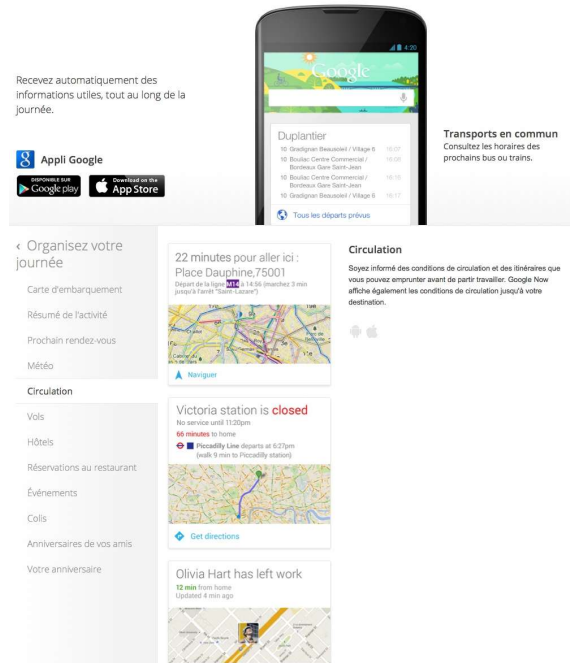
11:00 - 12:00
11:00 11:04 11:09 11:14 11:19 11:23
11:28 11:33 11:38 11:42 11:47 11:52

It is reasonable... (cont.)

- why is it so?

- I've enabled Google Now : <http://www.google.com/landing/now/>

Toujours un temps d'avance avec Google Now



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It is reasonable... (cont.)

- of course...

- Google Now can be disabled (OFF by default)
- I can reset geolocation data on Google web site

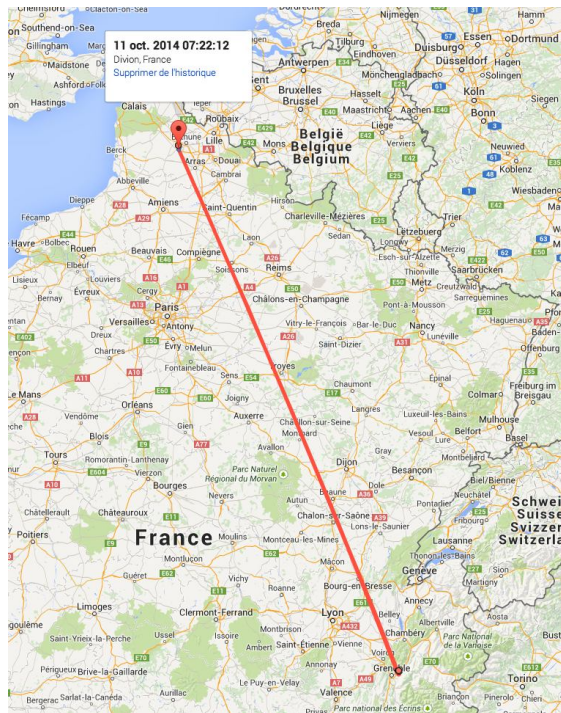
- but...

- isn't it **disproportionate** with respect to the service provided?
 - there's a general principle: "collect the minimum needed to provide a given service"
 - does the service require to keep all the records in the database for long periods?
- there are also geolocation **errors**...

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It is reasonable... (cont.)

- at Grenoble at 7:20, in the north 2 minutes later
- here the mistake is obvious but sometimes it's credible!



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Introduction

- “Personal Information” (PI) and the French/EU law

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Loi informatique et liberté (1978)

identity is not required as long as
a path to an identity can be found

“Constitue une donnée à caractère personnel **toute information relative à une personne physique identifiée ou qui peut être identifiée, directement ou indirectement**, par référence à un numéro d’identification ou à un ou plusieurs éléments qui lui sont propres. Pour déterminer si une personne est identifiable, il convient de **considérer l’ensemble des moyens** en vue de permettre son identification dont dispose ou auxquels peut avoir accès le responsable du traitement **ou toute autre personne.**”

no limit on the
technical means

no limit: anybody
in the world

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Loi informatique et liberté (1978)... (cont.)

- the **nature** of the information does not matter...
 - can be anything (e.g., temperature in a home)
- ...if there is a link to a person, it's a Personal Info (PI)
- this link can be **direct**...
 - e.g., we record temperature + name
- or **indirect**
 - e.g., we record temperature + EDF client ID
- a person is considered identifiable if the **data controller** has the information to identify him
 - e.g., EDF collects your home temperature + EDF client ID
- or **anybody else** in the world
 - e.g., EDF collects your home temperature + IP address of the sensor. Here the ISP can link the IP to the ADSL user

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Loi informatique et liberté (1978)... (cont.)

- French and EU definition of PI is very broad
 - in US the linkability to a person is restricted only to the data controller (i.e., database owner)
 - MAJOR DIFFERENCE!
- NB: a common term, PII (Personally Identifiable Information)

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Loi informatique et liberté (1978)... (cont.)

- Question 1: what about the following claim?
“we don’t collect your name, age or address, only non personal information”
 - wrong if linkability to a person remains possible
- Question 2: is an IP address a PI?
 - yes in France and in EU
 - no in the US, apart from the ISP

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Loi informatique et liberté (1978)... (cont.)

- sensitive information CANNOT be collected/processed

« Il est **interdit** de collecter ou de traiter des données à caractère personnel qui font apparaître, **directement ou indirectement**, les **origines raciales ou ethniques**, les **opinions politiques, philosophiques ou religieuses** ou **l'appartenance syndicale** des personnes, ou qui sont relatives à la **santé** ou à la **vie sexuelle** de celles-ci. »

- it's clear, non ambiguous: it's prohibited
- in practice it's pretty complex because of inference
 - if Google knows I'm at a church every Sunday morning (thanks to geolocation) he knows something whose collection is prohibited

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Loi informatique et liberté (1978)... (cont.)

- many obligations to the data controller

« 1° Les données sont collectées et traitées de **manière loyale et licite** ;

fair collection

2° Elles sont collectées **pour des finalités déterminées**, explicites et **légitimes** et ne sont pas traitées ultérieurement de manière incompatible avec ces finalités. [...];

well defined goal

3° Elles sont adéquates, pertinentes et **non excessives** au regard des finalités pour lesquelles elles sont collectées et de leurs traitements ultérieurs ;

collect the bare minimum

4° Elles sont **exactes**, complètes et, si nécessaire, mises à jour ;[...] ;

accuracy

5° Elles sont conservées sous une forme permettant l'identification des personnes concernées **pendant une durée qui n'excède pas** la durée nécessaire aux finalités [...]. »

limited duration

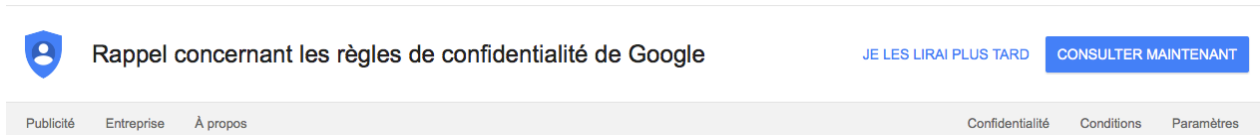
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Ways to escape the PI rules

the data collector can do a lot if...

- solution 1: they get the **free and informed consent of the user**

- “consentement libre et éclairé”
- explains why Google urges the user to read their confidentiality rules



- is it sufficient?
 - no if the user is not free to use the service (no alternative)
 - no if the privacy rules are not compliant with French / EU law (ex. [Facebook](#))

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Ways to escape the PI rules... (cont.)

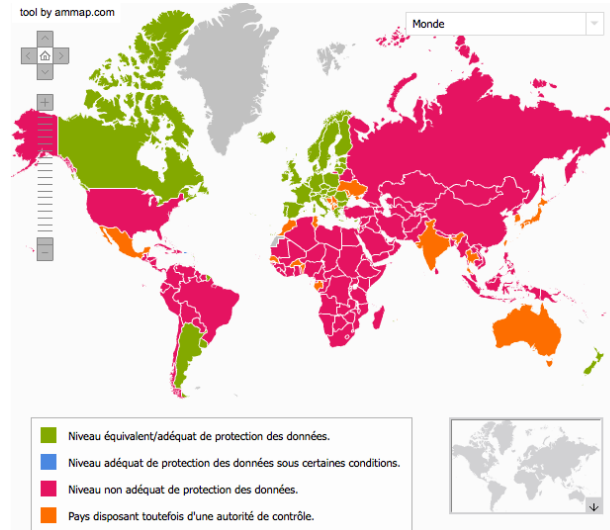
- solution 2: data is **anonymized**

- if linkability to a person is impossible it is no longer PI
- but secure anonymization can be pretty hard to achieve
 - because of inference attacks with side information
- and not necessarily sufficient
 - if a group of people is known to have a certain property, and if I'm known to belong to this group, even if my individual record cannot be identified in the database, one knows I have this property too

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PI transmission beyond EU

- personal info cannot be sent beyond EU borders
 - there are exceptions for countries whose data protection law is compliant with that of EU



- there are exception for companies who signed a specific contract

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PI transmission beyond EU... (cont.)

- close-up on **US companies**
 - US is not recognized as trustworthy W.R.T. PI protection
 - the “Safe Harbor” program was used to authorize PI collection till Oct. 2015
 - EUJC judgment (Max Schrems) concluded the US law does not guaranty the security of EU citizens PI
 - no rule today and PI collection is therefore prohibited...
 - ... but negotiations are on the way to establish new legal foundations
 - in the meantime high pressure of US companies to get the “free and informed” user consent

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- “personal information” and the French/EU law

2. smartphones and personal information eco-system

- why are we here?
- let's come back to smartphones
- who does what, who earns what?
- where is the problem?

3. the manufacturer approaches for privacy parameter control

- multiple limits
- three quick examples

4. what we learned with the Mobilitics project

- a rush towards stable identifiers... for a permanent user tracking that resists to resets
- a GPS in your pocket... for the others

5. conclusions

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● Why are we here?

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A massive worldwide surveillance

- we leave traces that are **systematically** recorded whenever we use Internet and our smartphone
 - on the “**visible**” web
 - on the “**invisible**” web
- for **economic** or **security** reasons

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Surveillance on the “visible” web

- Foursquare knows **where you are**
- Flickr knows **what you are watching**
- Facebook knows **what you’re doing**
- LinkedIn knows **where and with whom you’re working**
- Twitter knows **what you’re saying**
- Amazon knows **what you’re buying**
- Google knows **what you’re thinking**
- and much more...

If we cross all information, it’s becoming terrifying

<http://www.le-tigre.net/Marc-L.html>

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Surveillance on the “invisible” web

- thanks to cookies, pixels, “I like” buttons, etc. of web sites
 - one can easily **track** and **profile** all users



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Surveillance on the “invisible” web

- even if you don't provide your ID, anyway your browser is unique in the world and can be tracked

○ [Panopticklick](#)

- fingerprinting based on config, version, OS, screen resolution, etc.

- add blockers do help but are not 100% efficient

I'm using Adblock, Ghostery and Privacy badger!

 A screenshot of the Panopticklick website showing the results of a browser fingerprinting test. The header asks 'Is your browser safe against tracking?'. The main text states: 'How well are you protected against non-consensual Web tracking? After analyzing your browser and add-ons, the answer is ... Yes! You have strong protection against Web tracking, though your software isn't checking for Do Not Track policies.' Below this is a table with test results.

Test	Result
Is your browser blocking tracking ads?	✓ yes
Is your browser blocking invisible trackers?	✓ yes
Does your browser unblock 3rd parties that promise to honor Do Not Track?	✗ no
Does your browser protect from fingerprinting?	✗ your browser has a unique fingerprint

Note: because tracking techniques are complex, subtle, and constantly evolving, Panopticklick does not measure all forms of tracking and protection.

Your browser fingerprint appears to be unique among the 6,434,581 tested so far.

Currently, we estimate that your browser has a fingerprint that conveys at least 22.62 bits of identifying information.

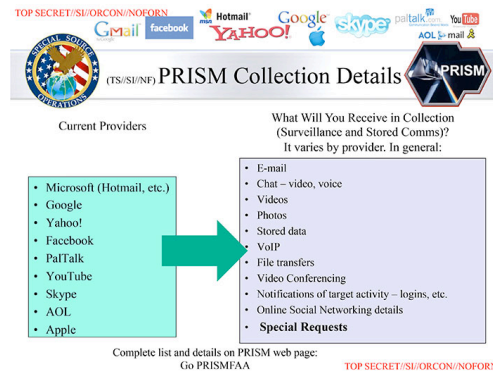
The measurements we used to obtain this result are listed below. You can [read more about our methodology, statistical results, and some defenses against fingerprinting here.](#)

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This situation can easily lead to abuses

● NSA...

- the issue is not to track well identified targets, but
 - to track all the world citizens
 - to compromise the security of our tools



● and NSA is not the only agency that does it

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● let's come back to smartphones...

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Smartphones have a key responsibility

- our everyday “companions”...
 - useful, always connected, easy to customize
- but they also

concentrate personal information

when we use them: phone calls, SMS, web, applications, etc.

generate personal information

GPS, NFC, WiFi, camera, fingerprint sensor, heart rate sensor, etc.

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A key responsibility... (cont.)

- they know a lot on our cyber-activities
 - applications generate many **opportunities** to leak personal information
 - it justifies that web site you visit invite you to download and use their own App...

“notre mouchard de poche préféré ?”



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What is the subject of this talk?

- a smartphone is composed of

- an application processor
- an operating system (OS)
 - Android (Google), iOS (Apple), Windows Phone, FirefoxOS †, Tizen, Cyanogen OS, etc.
- applications (“Apps”)

our
subject
(Android/
iOS)

- a full system (processor + OS) for baseband communications
 - hidden, no open spec, closed industry

very
complex
to
study

http://events.ccc.de/congress/2011/Fahrplan/attachments/2022_11-ccc-qcombbdbg.pdf

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- Who does what, who earns what?

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A complex eco-system

- **complex** because several actors are involved
 - « **first party** » : owns the App
⇒ those we see
 - « **third party** » : Advertising and Analytics (A&A)
⇒ those we never see
 - the third party has clients (e.g., advertising companies)
 - certain actors play multiple roles (e.g., Google and Facebook)
- it's impossible to trust everybody
 - two examples...

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Example 1: information leaks “by error”

- Twitter (Feb. 2012):

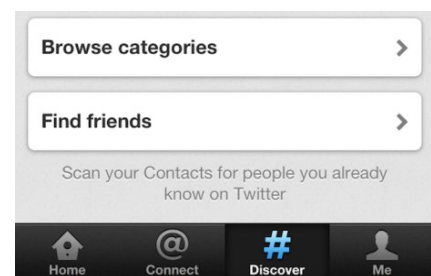
- “La fonctionnalité de recherche d'amis de [...] Twitter permet au service en ligne de télécharger sur ses serveurs les carnets d'adresses et la liste de contacts des utilisateurs. Une fois téléchargées sur ses serveurs, ces données sont conservées 18 mois.”

<http://www.zdnet.fr/actualites/twitter-copie-et-conserve-18-mois-sans-consentement-les-carnets-d-adresses-des-utilisateurs-39768632.htm>

- **similar scandals happened with LinkedIn et Path en 2012!**

- those are strategic errors

- immediately fixed in a new version of the App
- **reputation** is essential for those companies and risks are huge



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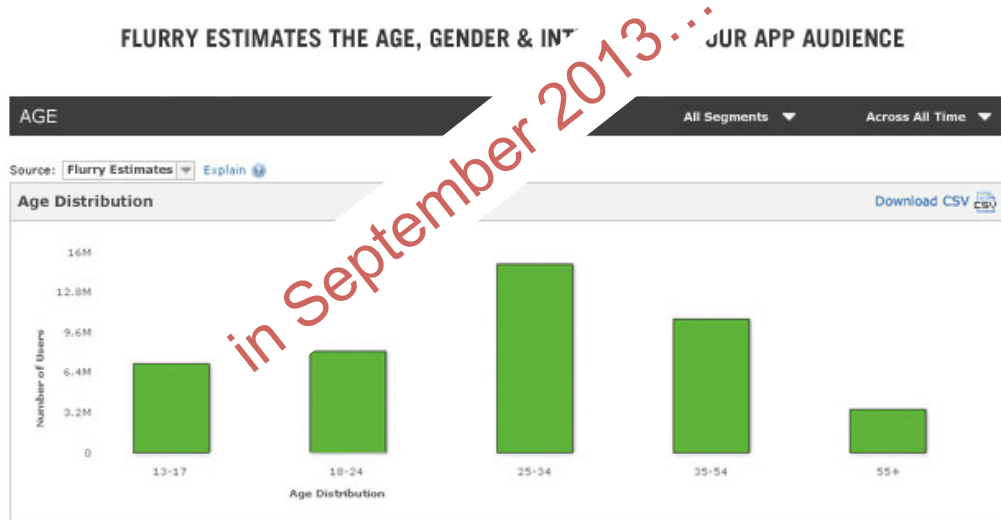
Example 2: massive, organized collection

- Flurry (from Yahoo)

- <http://www.flurry.com>



The enormous amount of data Flurry handles directly translates into unique, powerful insights for you. The service takes in over 3.5 billion app session reports per day totaling more than 3 terabytes, and our storage is in the petabytes. Here are some examples of how we use big data to create advantages for you:



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Example 2: massive collection... (cont.)

- what for?

- in order to **track users**

- does the same user come back? What Apps does he use?
With what frequency? When?

- in order to **profile users**

- is he a middle-age man? Does he like sport, technology?
Does he read news, etc.

- final goal is to

- sell **targeted advertising** on the smartphone

- high click ratio because ad is targeted

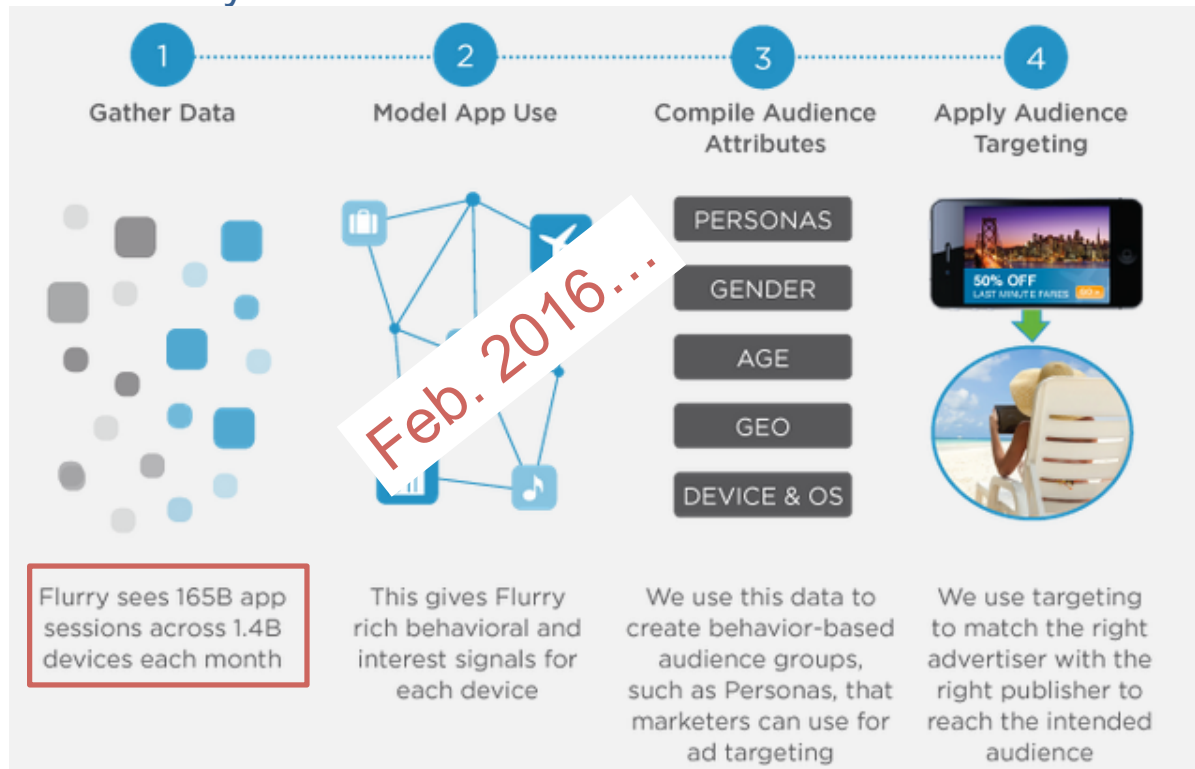
- but this database can easily be user for other purposes...

- massive surveillance

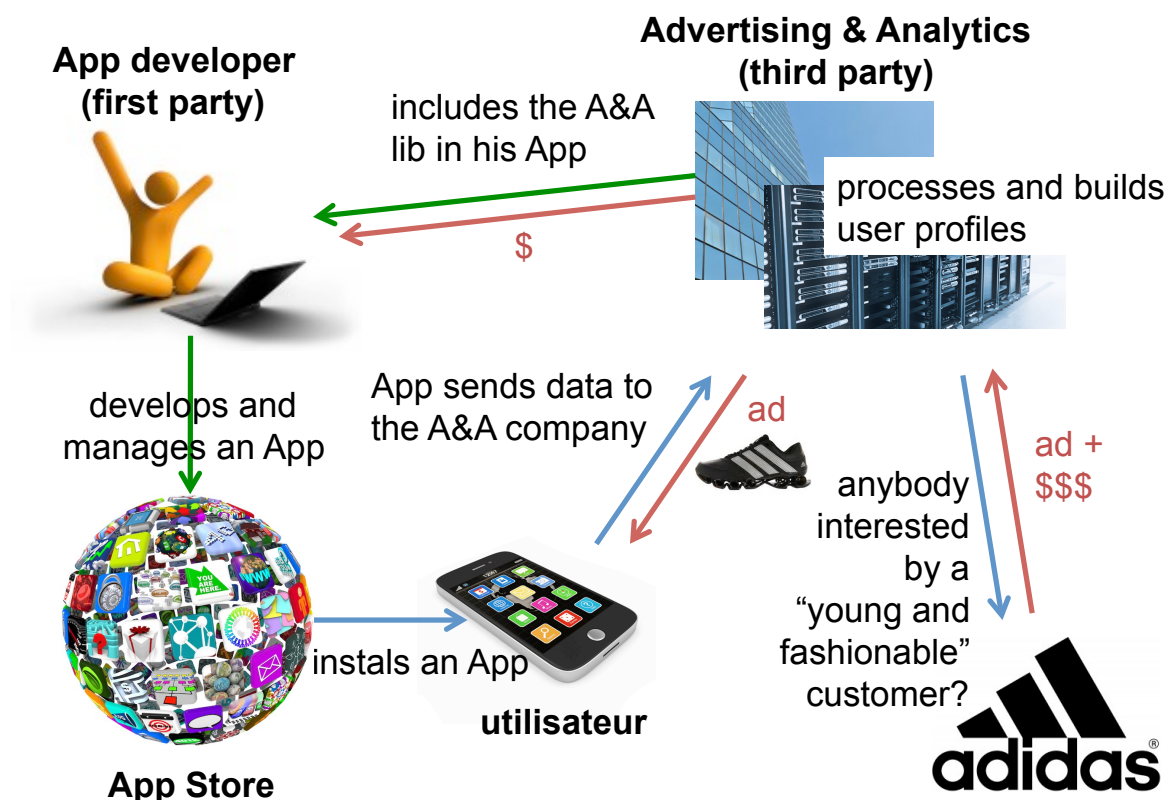
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Example 2: massive collection... (cont.)

● Ex. Flurry



The actors and their relationships



About mobile advertising

- many companies



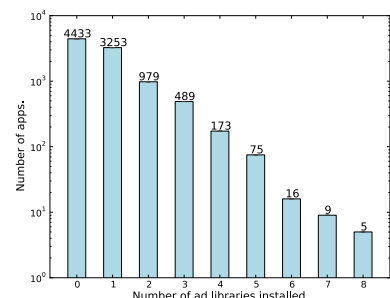
- >8 B\$ of revenues for mobile advertising in 2013 for Google

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About mobile advertising... (cont.)

- a few facts for Android (2011 data)
 - 77% of 50 free Apps are supported by ad. [1]

- 35% of free Apps use at least two A&A libraries [2]
 - in the hope to earn more?



- A&A libs require additional authorizations
 - a free App asks **2-3 additional authorizations** WRT paying version of the App [1]

- [1] "Don't kill my ads! Balancing Privacy in an Ad-Supported Mobile Application Market", HotMobile 2012.
- [2] "AdSplit: Separating smartphone advertising from applications", Usenix Security 2012.

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- where is the problem?

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Where is the problem?

- just another business model?

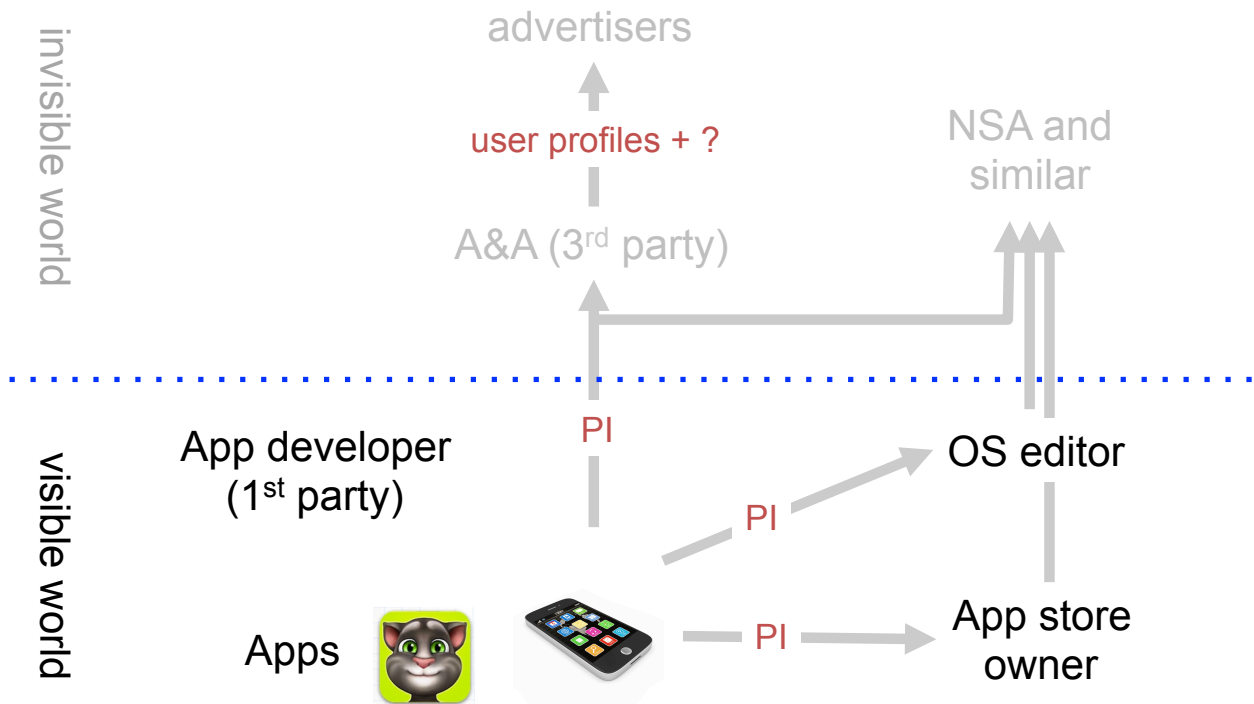
« Les données personnelles sont le nouveau pétrole de l'internet et la nouvelle monnaie du monde numérique. »

M. Kuneva, Commissaire europ. à la consommation, 2009

- maybe the price to pay for free Apps/services, but...

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1- the ecosystem is so complex we cannot trust all actors



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2- unreasonable practices

- a collect of our PI that is:

MASSIVE
disproportionate

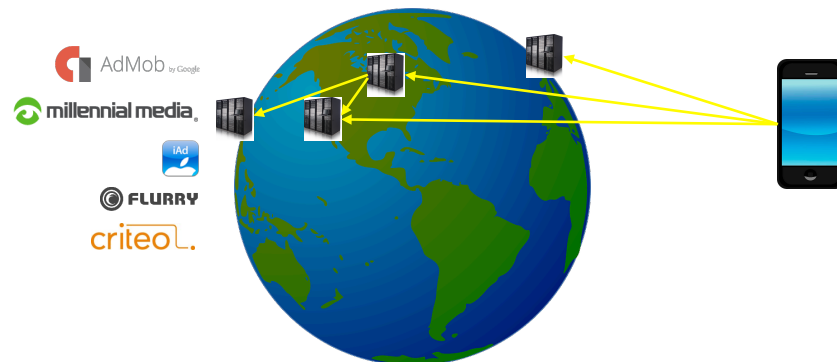
unnoticed

- It's not in line with FR/EU law

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3- uncontrolled collection of our PI

- data is immediately **exfiltrated** beyond EU in order to be stored, processed or exchanged in unknown conditions, **without any control**
 - FR and EU laws apply difficultly in those countries
- under FR law, a user must be able to access, correct and withdraw his PI which is not always the case here!



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And it's just the beginning

- PI collection will be more and more intrusive:
 - generalization of smartphone payment
 - wearable connected devices
 - home connected appliances
 - e.g., intelligent thermometer
 - “quantified self” trend
 - connected cars
 - IoT



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● The manufacturer approaches for privacy parameter control

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Complementary approaches

- several approaches

- **market centric:** the market owner checks the App before accepting it



- **user centric:** ask for the user consent...

- ... upon **installing** the App



- ... or **dynamically**, when using the App



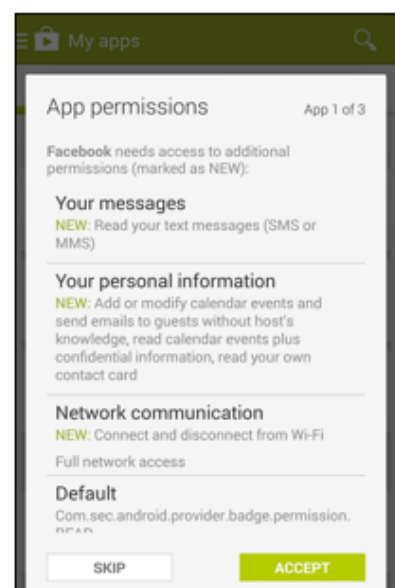
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About installation based authorizations

Reminder: Google/Android



- an App having specific requirements asks for user consent at installation time
 - **responsibility** is transferred to the user
 - very basic approach



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About dynamic authorizations

Reminder: Apple/iOS

(also quickly introduced in Android 4.3, then removed)



- a dedicated control panel enables users to authorize or ban access to PI of each App
 - **responsibility** is transferred to the user but this latter can change its mind at any time
 - here since iOS 6... and progressively improved



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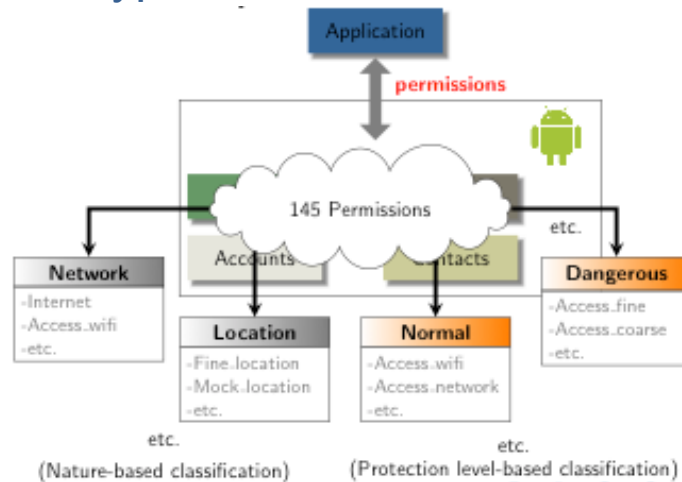
- many limits for these approaches

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A complex authorization system...



- 145 different types of authorizations



- users won't necessarily understand the **implications**

○ example : **ACCESS_WIFI_STATE**

- many PI can be inferred without the user being aware of it

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...that is also extremely limited

- accept or go elsewhere

○ we're not living in a binary world!

- no **behavioral** control of the App

○ authorizing an App to access my location and Internet for a punctual service does not mean I authorize this App to access my geolocation every minute and to send it to foreign servers

- no control on the **composition** of authorizations

○ authorizing an App to access my contacts and Internet does not mean I authorize this App to SEND my contacts to remote servers

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What about Apple?



- much better, but not yet sufficient
- no **behavioral** control of the App
 - idem
 - authorizing access to a PI does not mean I authorize any access and processing modality for this PI

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●three quick examples

- RATP** App, mid-2013 version
- an example of **Android authorization** with major implications...
 - J. P. Achara, M. Cunche, V. Roca, A. Francillon, « **Short paper: WifiLeaks: Underestimated Privacy Implications of the ACCESS WIFI STATE Android Permission** », IEEE WiSec'14.
- tracking users thanks to the Wifi interface of their smartphone**, slides from M. Cunche (journées du LERTI)

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Ex. 1: don't blindly believe the App Privacy Policies (RATP, version 5.4.1)

- “there's no problem” according to RATP
- really?
 - the active App list, my MAC address, smartphone name, accurate geolocation, a stable identifier are sent to Adgoji (ssl) and Sofialys (cleartext!)
- see our blog : [part-1](#) et [part-2](#): <https://team.inria.fr/privatics/>



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Ex. 2: an Android authorization with unexpected implications...

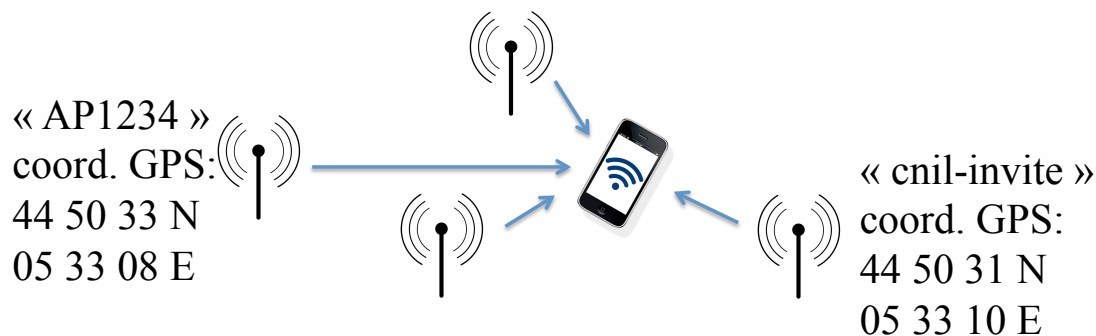
- imagine an App, that without asking the user explicit authorization...
- ... can **track** the user thanks to a stable identifier
 - it's the Wifi MAC **address**
 - e.g. 68:a8:6d:28:ce:1f
 - guaranteed to be **unique** in the world
 - **impossible** to re-initialize



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Ex. 2: an Android authorization with unexpected implications...

- imagine an App, that without asking the user explicit authorization...
- ... knows your **location**
 - by listening **Wifi networks in range**, then thanks to a broad database giving the geolocation of all AP can locate the smartphone by triangulation
 - in urban environments, can be **very accurate**



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Ex. 2: an Android authorization with unexpected implications...

- imagine an App, that without asking the user explicit authorization...
- ... knows a part of your **travels** and your **profile**
 - via the list of Wifi AP to which you connected, which is automatically registered in your smartphone

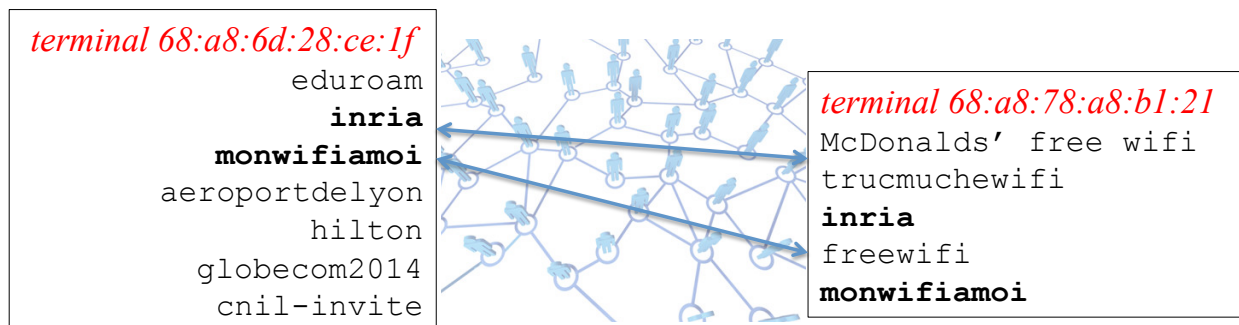
```
terminal 68:a8:6d:28:ce:1f
eduroam
Inria
monwifiamoi
aeroportdelyon
hilton
globecom2014
cnil-invite
```



66

Ex. 2: an Android authorization with unexpected implications...

- imagine an App, that without asking the user explicit authorization...
- ... can infer **social links** between users
 - by calculating the distance between their Wifi connection list, after creating a large dedicated database



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Ex. 2: it's possible thanks to Android!

- it is sufficient to ask the **ACCESS_WIFI_STATE** and **INTERNET** authorization at installation time...
 - no user can imagine this is possible
 - and the authorization descriptions gives no clue!

Network communication

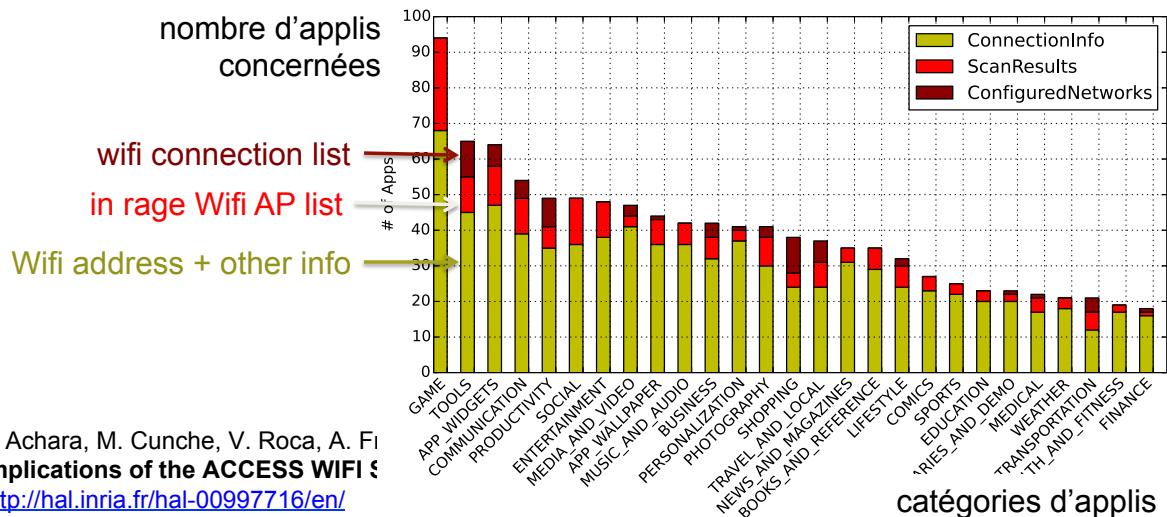
View Wi-Fi connections

Allows the app to view information about Wi-Fi networking, such as whether Wi-Fi is enabled and name of connected Wi-Fi devices.

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Is it in use?

- **Yes...** Within the 2700 most popular Apps, 41% ask both permissions and many of them use it



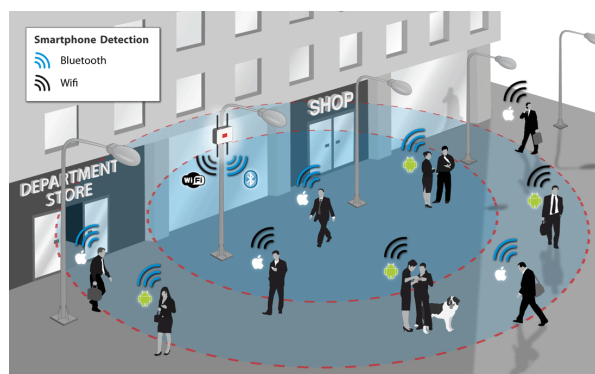
J. Achara, M. Cunche, V. Roca, A. Fi
Implications of the ACCESS_WIFI :
<http://hal.inria.fr/hal-00997716/en/>

69

Ex. 3 : tracking users in physical world thanks to their smartphone Wifi interface

- Wi-Fi tracking system¹¹
 - Set of sensors collect Wi-Fi signal
 - Detect and track Wi-Fi devices and their owners
 - MAC address used as identifier

M. Cunche slide
(Inria, Privatics)



¹¹A. B. M. Musa and Jakob Eriksson. "Tracking unmodified smartphones using Wi-Fi monitors". In: *Proceedings of the 10th ACM Conference on Embedded Network Sensor Systems*. 2012.

Ex. 3 : tracking users... (cont.)

- Physical analytics
 - Similar to Web Analytics
 - Frequency and length of visit, number of visitor, peak hour
- Trajectory reconstruction
 - Signal received by several sensors
 - **Triangulation** based on signal strength

M. Cuncu slide
(Inria, Privatics)



Outline

1. introduction
 - two examples
 - “personal information” and the French/EU law
2. smartphones and personal information eco-system
 - why are we here?
 - let's come back to smartphones
 - who does what, who earns what?
 - where is the problem?
3. the manufacturer approaches for privacy parameter control
 - multiple limits
 - three quick examples
4. what we learned with the Mobilitics project
 - a rush towards stable identifiers... for a permanent user tracking that resists to resets
 - a GPS in your pocket... for the others
5. conclusions

● What we learned with the Mobilitics project

- “in-vivo” experiments, with volunteers using an instrumented iOS or Android smartphone during 3 months in a daily basis

Transparents CNIL lors de la conférence de presse Inria-CNIL du 15/12/2014



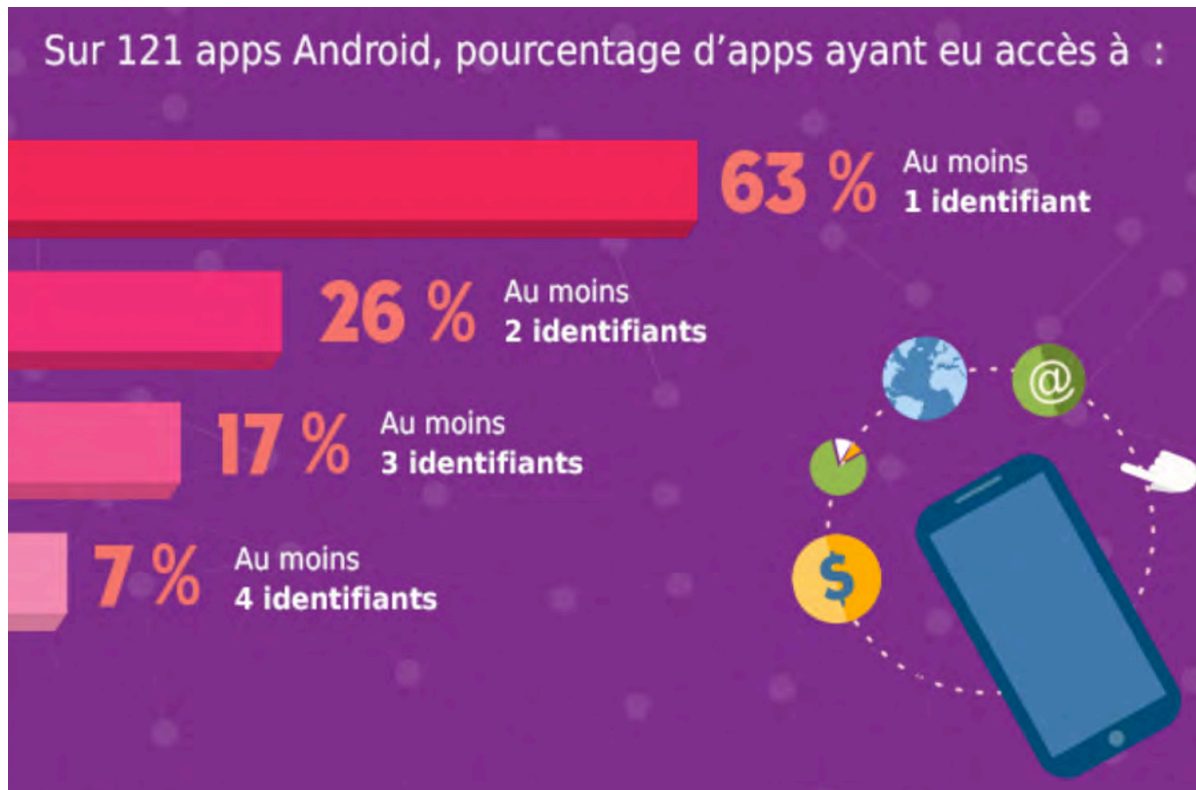
73

A rush towards stable identifiers

Résultats généraux, comparaison entre les deux saisons		iOS 5 (tests de novembre 2012 à janvier 2013)		Android « Jelly Bean » (tests de juin à septembre 2014)	
Nombre d'applications		total : 189		total : 121	
Qui communiquent sur le réseau		176	93%	80	66%
Qui accèdent à l'UDID/android ID		87	46%	41	34%
Qui accèdent à la géolocalisation		58	31%	29	24%
Qui accèdent au carnet d'adresses		15	8%	20	17%
Qui accèdent au calendrier		3	2%	4	3%
Qui accèdent au nom de l'appareil		30	16%	non mesuré	
Qui accèdent au nom d'opérateur		non mesuré		28	23%
Qui accèdent à l'IMEI (identité d'équipement mobile)		non mesuré		24	20%
Qui accèdent à l'adresse MAC WiFi		non mesuré		9	7%
Qui accèdent au numéro de téléphone		non mesuré		7	6%
Qui accèdent à l'identifiant de carte SIM (ICCID)		non mesuré		6	5%
Qui accèdent à la liste des points d'accès WiFi (SSID)		non mesuré		5	4%

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A rush towards stable identifiers... (cont.)

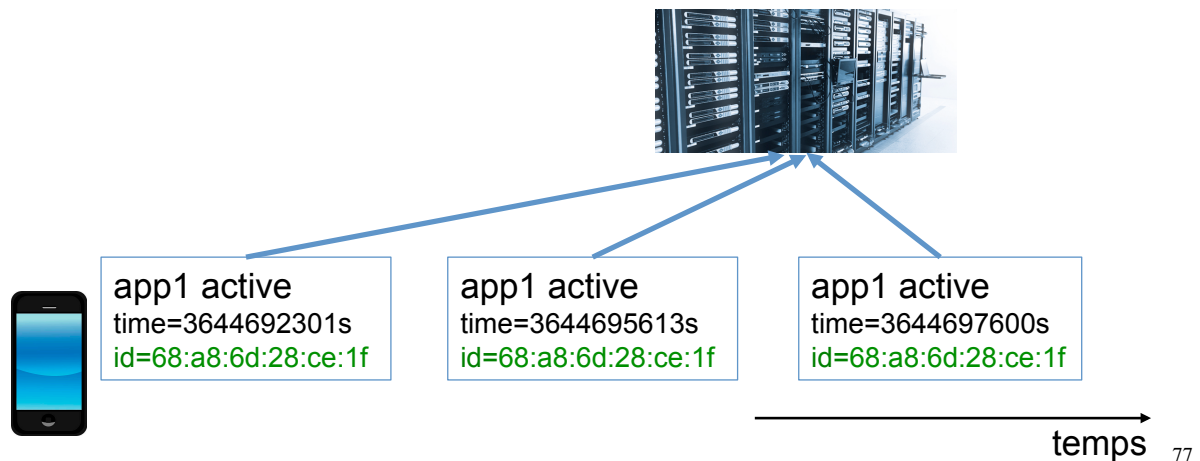


About stable identifiers and their use

- AndroidID
random number generated upon starting the smartphone for the first time and kept in a stable memory
- MAC address of Wifi (or Bluetooth) interface
identifies uniquely the network interface (e.g., 68 : a8 : 6d : 28 : ce : 1f)
- IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity)
uniquely identifies a smartphone (used for instance to block a stolen phone)
- IMSI (International Mobile Subscriber Identity)
identifies a user at his/her cell phone operator
- AdID (Advertising Identifier)
special ID used for advertising tracking that a user can reset at any time to prevent long term tracking (in theory at least)

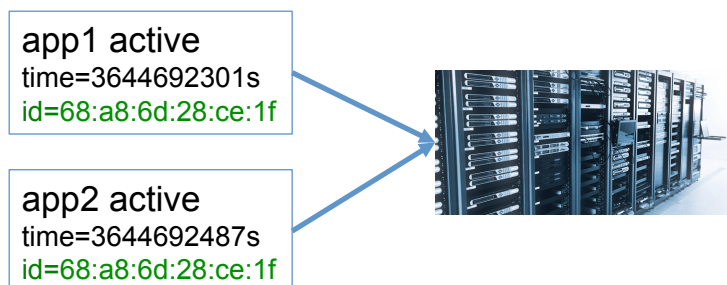
About stable IDs and their use... (cont.)

- looks safe but...
 - considered as PI by FR/EU law
- **stable IDs** are perfect for **tracking** users on the long term



About stable IDs and their use... (cont.)

- **stable IDs** are perfect to **correlate** information collected from several Apps
 - and therefore create a user profile



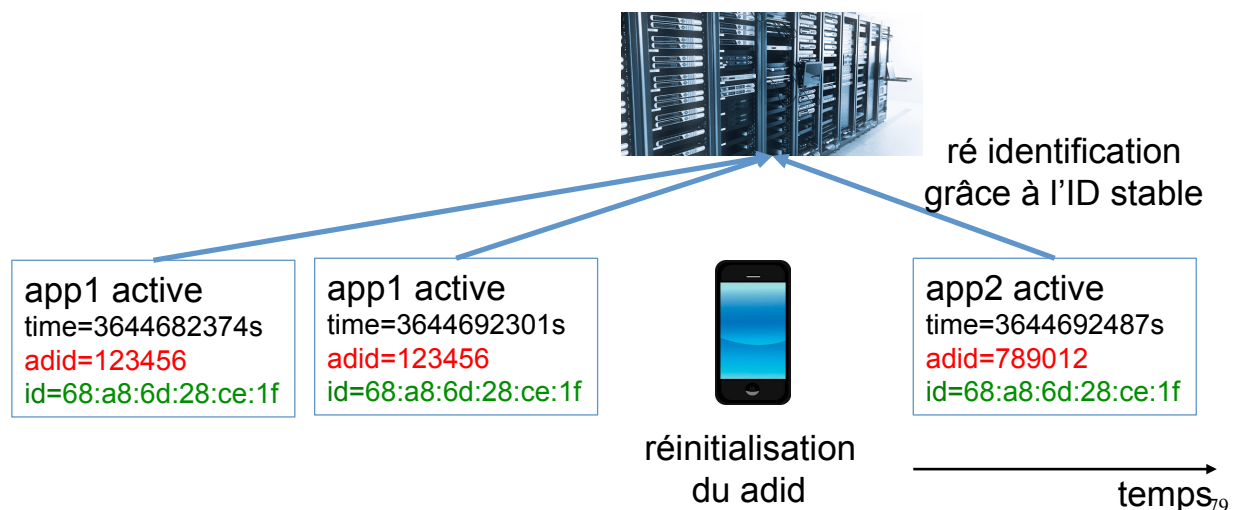
From the same device? It's sufficient to compare the IDs

If yes, we know a subset of Apps for this user and his/her centers of interest

About stable IDs and their use... (cont.)

- **stable IDs** are perfect to **bypass** the desired limits of advertising tracking

- if the user resets his Advertising ID, the A&A company can easily re-identify the user



A GPS in your pocket... for others

La localisation, donnée reine

Le smartphone, un GPS dans votre poche ... pour les autres ?

25-30% des apps accèdent à la localisation

Parfois fonctions mineures (pour un jeu)

Ce qui interpelle, c'est la **fréquence d'accès**.

Parfois des **centaines de milliers d'accès** en 3 mois de tests



par ex. pour le service Android "Play Store"
ou pour des applications de réseaux et médias sociaux.

Cela correspond parfois
à **plusieurs accès par min**
pendant 3 mois

des jeux peuvent avoir eu plus
de **3300 accès** à la localisation



Pourquoi est-ce un problème?

- Nos résultats ne prouvent pas que cette donnée est **transmise**.
- Cependant, difficile de comprendre à quoi servent des accès aussi réguliers par rapport au service rendu.

La localisation est la donnée la plus "utile" pour contextualiser les services, mais aussi pour tracer, cibler, profiler.

A minima, "privacy-by-design" + limitation des accès à cette donnée à ce qui est nécessaire au service rendu.

- Les autorisations d'accès à la localisation sont génériques et binaires: pas d'accès ou accès quasi illimité.

Pas à un outil de maîtrise adapté

To know more... (in French)

La lettre innovation et prospective de la CNIL

N°08 / novembre 2014



Retrouvez-nous sur notre site [\[www.cnil.fr/ip\]](http://www.cnil.fr/ip) en flashant le code ou sur :



Mobilitics, saison 2: Les smartphones et leurs apps sous le microscope de la CNIL et d'Inria

La CNIL et Inria travaillent depuis maintenant 3 ans sur un projet de recherche et d'innovation ambitieux nommé Mobilitics. Son objectif : mieux connaître les smartphones, ces objets utilisés quotidiennement par des dizaines de millions de français et qui

http://www.cnil.fr/fileadmin/documents/La_CNIL/publications/DEIP/Lettre_IP_N-8-Mobilitics.pdf

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An example: My Talking Tom



« My Talking Tom » **accesses**

"imei": 8,
"network_code": 6,
"wifi_mac": 5,
"android_id": 12,
"operator_name": 8

« My Talking Tom » **transmits** "android_id":

"85.195.69.168:(plain-text)",
"162.217.102.42:(plain-text)",
"vungle.com:(plain-text)",
"sponsorpay.com:(plain-text)"

"imei":

"ws.tapjoyads.com:(SSL)",
"1e100.net:(plain-text)",
"85.195.69.168:(plain-text)",
"outfit7.com:(plain-text)",
"sponsorpay.com:(plain-text)"

"wifi_mac":

"85.195.69.168:(plain-text)",
"vungle.com:(plain-text)",
"sponsorpay.com:(plain-text)"⁸²

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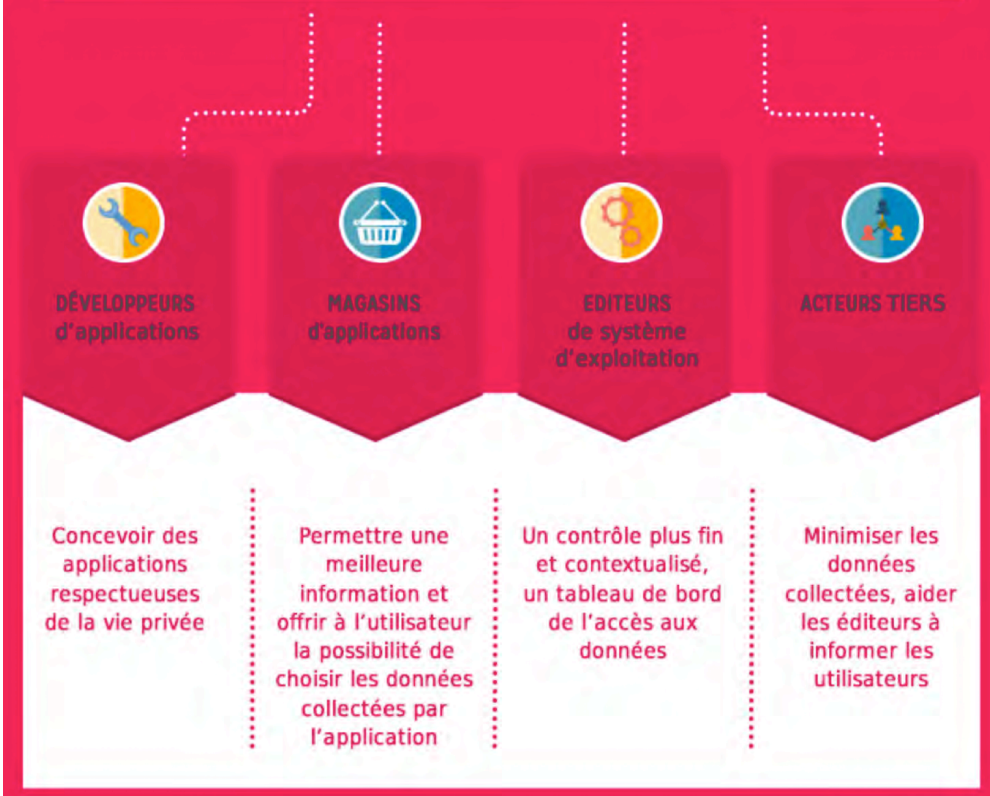
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© Inria / Photo H. Raguet

● Conclusions

4 Demain, des utilisateurs maîtres de leurs données ? Une mobilisation nécessaire de l'ensemble des acteurs du marché.



mobile phone
operators

+

smartphone
manufacturers

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The case of Google



- Google business model relies on advertisements
- ...and Google needs PI for that

○ Apps **have an easy access** to (stable) identifiers needed to track users

- sometimes without having to ask user authorization

○ **very limited motivation** to change the situation

- since August 2014, new Apps are supposed to only use the "Advertising ID" for targeted advertising...
- ... but it will take time and other identifiers still remain
- current strategy remains to collect as many IDs as possible

○ and **contrary indicators** exist

- Android 4.3 proposed a privacy dashboard... Removed from the following Android versions!

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The case of Google... (cont.)

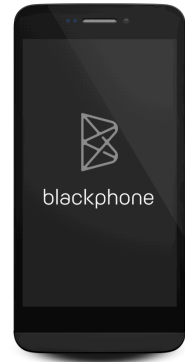
- but this is (partially) an open-source OS

○ building secure versions is possible 😊

○ BlackPhone (de Silent Circle)

600 \$

- <https://silentcircle.com/services#blackphone>



○ CryptoPhone 500 (de GSMK)

3500 \$

- <http://www.cryptophone.de/en/products/mobile/cp500/>
- can identify faked cell towers
 - <http://www.popsoci.com/article/technology/mysterious-phony-cell-towers-could-be-intercepting-your-calls>
 - <http://www.aftenposten.no/nyheter/iriks/Secret-surveillance-of-Norways-leaders-detected-7825278.html>
- usually those are "IMSI catchers"



The case of Apple

- Apple sells (costly) hardware and softwares
- ... and communicates a lot on privacy



Tim Cook, PDG Apple : « Notre activité ne repose pas sur le fait de détenir des informations sur vous. Vous n'êtes pas notre produit »

○ Even if the situation is not perfect, there is are clear improvements across iOS versions

- many stable identifiers have been removed from the latest iOS versions
- the Advertising-ID that a user can re-initialize is a key to limit tracking

The user can also

- limit the number of Apps
 - be careful W.R.T. the App permissions asked or the privacy control dashboard
 - ... and remove unused Apps
 - think it twice before using a daily assistant like “Google Now”
- use official App stores
 - Apps are checked (up to a certain point) by the store owner
- switch off the Wifi interface if not used...
 - to avoid physical tracking by stores (and others)
- ...and if you can, switch off data communications
 - when not used

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The user can also... (cont.)

- explicitly stop Apps
 - instead of leaving them running in background
- set appropriate geolocation parameters
- limit advertising tracking / reset the AdvertisingID
 - but it will be more efficient with iOS than it is with Android
- “last but not least”, do not jailbreak/root your phone
 - otherwise any App has a full access to smartphone

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Fortunately the regulator has a real power

- the **EU laws** continue to evolve in the right direction
 - new EU regulation on data protection
 - true impacts on companies
 - EU data protection agencies (e.g., CNIL in France) discuss in the G29 group

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"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog."

In 1993...

© NewYorker 1993



In 2015...

© NewYorker 2015

*"Remember when, on the Internet,
nobody knew who you were?"*